

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2411

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FOR HUMMEL FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN NZ US

SUBJECT: US-NZ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

REF: A) WELLINGTON 3242; B) WELLINGTON 0454;
C) WELLINGTON 0707; D) WELLINGTON 2339

1. I AM BECOMING CONCERNED OVER WHAT APPEARS FROM
HERE TO BE A RATHER LIMITED WASHINGTON INTEREST IN THE
US-NZ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT. THE FIRST THREE
REFERENCED TELEGRAMS ALL INDICATE THE IMPORTANCE THE
GNZ ATTACHES TO THE AGREEMENT. REF D REFERS TO AN
INQUIRY MADE BY PROFESSOR HENSHALL ON BEHALF OF DR. COLIN
MAIDEN WHICH IS, IN EFFECT, ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN
GREATER US RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT.
FURTHER, ON JULY 19, ONE OF OUR OFFICERS WAS
INFORMED BY MERV NORRISH, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, THAT PRIME MINISTER KIRK CONTINUES TO HAVE
GREAT INTEREST IN THE AGREEMENT, WHICH KIRK SEES AS
FUNDAMENTAL EFFORT TO BROADEN US-NZ RELATIONS. NORRISH
STATED THAT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT AT THE TIME
OF THE ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING WAS MEANT TO SYMBOLIZE
THE NEED FOR, AND THE FACT OF, BROADER TIES THAN THOSE
RESTRICTED TO SECURITY AND DEFENSE.

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2. IN SUPPORT OF THE AGREEMENT, PM KIRK HAS PUSHED THROUGH A BUDGET FOR IT OF MORE THAN US DOLS 2,000,000. WHILE NOT MUCH BY US TERMS, THIS REPRESENTS NEARLY TEN PERCENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S SCIENCE EFFORT. IN ADDITION, KIRK HAS APPOINTED COLIN MAIDEN (WHO IS BY FAR THIS COUNTRY'S BEST R&D MAN) AS NEW ZEALAND'S EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR THE AGREEMENT. MAIDEN AND HIS NUMBER TWO, BRIAN HENSHALL, HAVE TRAVELLED TO THE US TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATIONS.

3. I WISH TO REITERATE THAT THE S&T AGREEMENT IS CONSIDERED BY KIRK TO BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. HE HAS ASSURED IT AN AMPLE BUDGET AND HAS COLLARED NEW ZEALAND'S BEST SCIENTISTS TO RUN IT. IN CONTRAST, THE US HAS YET TO NAME AN EXECUTIVE AGENT AND, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE ONLY ACTION BY WASINGTON SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN FEBRUARY HAS BEEN SOME FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO MAIDEN AND HENSHALL. CONTINUED LACK OF ACTION ON OUR PART WILL EVENTUALLY EMBARRASS NEW ZEALAND/AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND WANTS VERY MUCH TO EXPAND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US BY MEANS OF THIS AGREEMENT. OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE SPEEDY AND POSITIVE. NOT ONLY ARE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED THEREFROM BUT, IN THE LONGER TERM, NEW ZEALAND ADMIRATION FOR AMERICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAN EVENTUALLY BE CONVERTED INTO BIGGER SALES OF SOPHISTICATED AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY. TO THAT END, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN : 1) OBTAINING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AMERICAN EXECUTIVE AGENT; AND 2) ASSURING THAT THE OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT RECEIVES THE HIGH LEVEL OF ATTENTION IT DESERVES IN THE DEPARTMENT.
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